KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Of the 48 blocks offered for bidding under NELP, 20 offshore blocks and 4 onland blocks were earlier held by ONGC under PEL. These blocks were offered under NELP after ONGC relinquished these areas.

Blocks allotted to ONGC cannot be made available to any other company as long as ONGC holds PEL.

(d) No, Sir. ONGC has a plan to carry out exploration work in all the blocks allotted to it.

(e) Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy, a level playing field has been provided for the private as well as public sector companies.

Import of Crude Oil and Petroleum products

1782. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the total imports of crude oil and petroleum products in 1997-1998 and in 1998-99;

(b) what is the demand of petroleum products projected for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) how much of it is likely to be met through indigenous production and imports; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to export petrol and Naphtha in the next year or two?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The quantity of crude oil and petroleum products imported during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is as under:—

Qty. Million tonnes

Item	1997-98	1998-99* (April—December)
Crude Oil	34.494	29.506
Petroleum Products	19.530	14.146

*Provisional

(b) A per IX Five Year Plan (1997-2002) document, the projected demand of Petroleum Products for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are likely to be 93.67 MMT and 99.07 MMT respectively.

(c) As per IX Plan sub-group on refining, the percentage of demand that is expected to be met by indigenous production and imports are given below:—

	1999-2000	2000-2001
Percentage demand to be met by indigenous production	88.7	81.7
Percentage demand likely to be met through imports	11.3	18.3

(d) The export of petrol and Naphtha in the next year or two would inter alia, depend upon the overall demand and supply position in the country and the prevailing market conditions.

Refining Capacity in the Country

1783. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to increase refining capacity in the country during the current year either by public sector private sector or joint sector Refineries;

(b) what is the total short-fall of different petroleum products per year; and

(c) how does Government plan to become self-sufficient in petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The total net shortfall of different Petroleum Products during the last two years is as follows:—

Year	1996-97	1997-98
Shortfall (in million metric tonnes)	17.15	19.65

(c) Government has planned to set up a number of refineries at different locations in the country in Public Sector/Joint Venture and Private Sector in order to meet the demand of Petroleum Products from domestic production.

Mini Gas Cylinders

1784. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the price difference between illegally manufactured mini gas cylinders and legally manufactured cylinders; and

(b) how does Government plan to stop completely the manufacture of illegal mini gas cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) PSU Oil Companies are marketing LPG through 14.2 Kg, 19 Kg and 47.5 Kg capacity cylinders which do not come in the category of mini cylinders. The current average procurement cost of these cylinders in Rs. 900/-, Rs. 1100/- and Rs. 1960/- respectively.

However, instances of illegal manufacture of the small LPG cylinders in Meerut by some small scale units registered with the Directorate of Industry, Meerut have come to the notice. The Chief Controller of Explosives, Bureau of Indian Standards and State Govt. Authorities of Uttar Pradesh and N.C.T. Delhi were requested to take action under relevant laws against the manufacture of illegal LPG cylinders. Small cylinders conforming to specifications of BIS and CCOE can be used.

Capacity of Lakwa Plant of GAIL

1785. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total capacity of Lakwa Plant of Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL);

(b) wether the Plant's capacity is fully utilised;

(c) if not, the reason therefor; and

(d) what measures have been taken to utilise its full capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The installed capacity of the LPG recovery plant of GAIL at Lakwa is 85,000 Tonnes Per Annum (TPA).

(b) to (d) No, Sir. It is so inspite of ONGC's efforts to increase the availability of gas.

लुब्रीकैन्टों का विपणन

1786. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्रः** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इंडियन आयल कारपोरेशन देश में संभावनाओं का पता लगाने की बजाय विदेशी बाजारों पर अपनी पकड़ बनाना चाहता है, और

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि पहले भारतीय लुब्रीकैन्ट बाजार में इसका हिस्सा 48 प्रतिशत था, जो अब घटकर 40 प्रतिशत रह गया है?